



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON
DISABILITIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 374A
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://laccod.org>**

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

1:00 PM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (16-5302)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Call to Order. (16-5236)

President Carlos Benavides called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Commissioner Rosa Maria Chaturvedi joined the meeting at 1:11 p.m.

Present: President Carlos Benavides, 1st Vice President Janet A. Neal, Treasurer Lourdes Caracoza, Commissioner Allan Buck, Commissioner Edward A. Colley, Commissioner Rosa Maria Chaturvedi, Commissioner John R. James, Commissioner Dee Pinchbeck, Commissioner Ramon Pizarro, Commissioner Peggie Reyna, Commissioner Rita Tomassian-Hopkins and 2nd Vice President John B. Troost

Absent: Commissioner Steve Miller, Commissioner Maria Mustelier-Parrish, Commissioner Hector Ochoa and Commissioner Wan Chun Chang

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Approval of Minutes from the meeting of September 21, 2016. (16-5237)

On motion of 2nd Vice President John B. Troost, seconded by Commissioner Allan Buck, unanimously carried, this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

2. Discussion and possible action on the following items:
 - Captioning for the Commission Meeting
 - December 2016 Open House (16-5257)

Sandy Eisenberg, owner of Total Recall Captioning, Inc., addressed the Commission and provided an overview of the services that her company provides. 1st Vice President Neal provided an overview of the Open House that is held every year immediately following the Commission's regular December meeting. President Carlos Benavides made a suggestion if the Commission agrees, a budget of no more than \$350 be allocated for the cost of refreshments for the Open House to be held on December 21, 2016.

During discussion, Commissioners Neal, Buck, Colley, James, Pinchbeck, Reyna and Tomassian-Hopkins provided comments.

After discussion, by Common Consent, there being no objection, the Commission agreed to have President Carlos Benavides draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors, requesting financial assistance to absorb the cost of captioning services.

After further discussion, on motion of Commissioner Dee Pinchbeck, seconded by Commissioner Rita Tomassian-Hopkins, there being no objection, the Commission approved to allocate \$350 from the Commission's Trust fund for the cost of refreshments for the Open House to be held on December 21, 2016.

- 3. Receive and File the Access Services, Incorporated Board of Directors meeting report for October 2016. (16-5245)**

Commissioner Ed Colley read in, for the record, the written report provided by 2nd Vice President John B. Troost for October 2016.

After discussion, by Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

- 4. President's Report for the month of October 2016. (16-5247)**

President Carlos Benavides thanked everyone who attended and participated in the Access Awards Luncheon. This year's silent auction was one of the best the Commission has had and it was a wonderful and successful event.

II. REPORTS

5. Receive and File the Events Committee Report as submitted by Chair, Janet A. Neal. (16-5248)

1st Vice President Janet A. Neal stated this year's Access Awards Luncheon was the best luncheon she has attended.

6. Receive and File the Access Services Incorporated report by Louis Burns, Access Services Customer Support Administrator. (16-5250)

Louis Burns, Access Services Community Liaison, Access Services (Access), acknowledged that the Commission's 25th Annual Access Awards Luncheon was a great event. He thanked the Commission and staff for doing a great job and opined the customer service was excellent.

In response to an Access Services referral submitted to Mr. Burns by 1st Vice President Neal, he stated that the customer had appealed Access' decision to deny services to her daughter. As a result of the appeal, Access reversed the decision making the customer eligible to receive transportation. Mr. Burns recognized the inconvenience to the customer and will suggest to Access to reconsider the purpose of the appeal process.

Mr. Burns further stated that Access may test their mobile application "Where's My Ride" at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center with plans to make available to the public by the end of 2016.

Dr. Genevieve Clavreul, member of the public, addressed the Commission.

After further discussion, by Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

7. Receive and File the monthly Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO) Report by Joanna Lemus, Accessibility Programs Administrator. (16-5251)

Darlene Williams, METRO Accessibility Program Analyst, thanked the Commission for a wonderful Access Awards Luncheon and mentioned that their recently appointed Accessibility Advisory Committee members Daniel Garcia, Frank Chavez and Ellen Blackman were METRO's invited guests to the luncheon.

Ms. Williams announced the homeless strategic plan that was reviewed by the Commission was implemented on October 7, 2016. She further reported on the upcoming calendared events for METRO as follows:

- **10/19/16 – Guide Dogs of the Desert training their service dogs on METRO Gold Line.**
- **10/29/16 – Cal State Northridge Family Focus Resource Center for Special Needs Fair from 10:00-2:00 p.m.**
- **11/02/16 – Logan Panel Seminar and Recourse at the Braille Institute**

In response to Commissioner Buck's question, Ms. Williams stated that using the buses to notify the public of accessible polling places is considered an advertisement, therefore, METRO would charge a fee for that service. She also stated at this time there are no spaces available on the buses for PSAs or advertisements. Ms. Williams provided contact information to purchase ads.

Daniel Garcia, member of the public, addressed the Commission.

After further discussion, by Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

- 8. Report and possible action on accessible voting polls for the disabled and the developmentally disabled as submitted by Ad Hoc Policy Committee. (16-5252)**

There was no report.

III. PRESENTATION

- 9. Presentation by Connie Chung, Los Angeles County Regional Planning Department, on the Department's responsibilities and direct services that substantially impact the lives of people with disabilities. (16-5239)**

Connie Chung, Supervising Regional Planner, Los Angeles County Regional Planning Department (RPD), provided a brief overview on the Department functions.

Ms. Chung reported the main functions of RPD are permitting/land use approvals, zoning enforcement unit; mapping/Global Information System (GIS) for Los Angeles County's 260,000 square miles and; long range planning. The main tools to guide growth countywide in the unincorporated areas are the general plan, a long range vision plan, and Los Angeles County (County) Code Titles 21 and 22. She also mentioned various housing types and how RPD includes criteria in their zoning

regulations that allow diversity of housing types to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

In 2011, Ms. Chung stated that the Board of Supervisors approved the Reasonable Accommodation Ordinance that established administrative services to evaluate procedures when zoning codes are perceived as barriers for individuals with disabilities. She further stated each request for reasonable accommodations in a home is evaluated individually along with RPD staff at no charge. There is also no fee from zoning to put a ramp in a home.

Furthermore, Ms. Chung stated that the Chief Executive Office submitted 47 recommendations to the Board of Supervisors to address homelessness and housing. RPD will be responsible for four of the recommendations that focus on permanent affordable housing. Additional projects involving the County's General Plan established in 2015 and RPD included:

- 1. Partnering with Department of Public Works to implement a Complete Streets transportation policy requiring streets to be planned, designed, operated, and maintained to enable safe, convenient and comfortable travel and access for users of all ages and abilities regardless of their mode of transportation.**
- 2. Collaborating in the establishment of potential strategies and actions initiative for Vision Zero that was recently approved by the Board of Supervisors; which aims at eliminating traffic-related fatalities for the County unincorporated areas.**
- 3. Addressing the Board of Supervisors goal to reduce climate change and improve sustainability. The concepts of sustainability to combat climate change and adaptation based on the existing infrastructure requires planting more trees, constructing cooler roofs, cooler pavement and access to cooling systems such as air-conditioners for people with disabilities.**
- 4. The Board of Supervisors goal is to establish equity for all constituents residing in the County. Presently, RPD is collaborating with departments to determine how to define equity; how to ensure county departments are promoting equity; how to ensure resources are being distributed equitably and; how are we serving our most vulnerable. Presently, a score card is being designed to assist in monitoring of impartiality.**

Treasurer Lourdes Caracoza, Commissioners Peggie Reyna, Allan Buck, Rosa Maria Chaturvedi, Dee Pinchbeck, Ed Colley, Ramon Pizarro, Rita Tomassian-Hopkins and President Carlos Benavides provided their comments.

Members of the public, Linda Block and Daniel Garcia, provided their comments.

Ms. Chung provided answers to questions posed by the Commission and will come back to provide more information in the next scheduled Commission meeting.

President Carlos Benavides thanked Ms. Chung for her informative presentation.

By Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

- 10.** Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested), placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the authority, of matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (16-5253)

No matters were posted.

Public Comment

- 11.** Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (16-5255)

Members of the public, Linda Block, Sawako Nitao, Daniel Garcia and Dr. Genevieve Clavreul addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

- 12.** Adjournment for the meeting of October 19, 2016. (16-5256)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m. in memory of Sergeant Steven Owen, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Also, the Commission expressed their heartfelt concerns for Commissioner Ramon Pizarro's family, who recently loss their home during Typhoon Haima in the Philippines.